

South Park Bridge

The Project

This project replaces the South Park Bridge over the Duwamish River, in King County. The new structure would replace four existing substandard 9.5-foot wide lanes with four standard 11-foot wide lanes.

- The existing bridge is in extremely poor condition and requires about \$300,000 a year in maintenance and added bridge tender costs of \$530,000 for maintenance and operations.
- The 75-year old bridge does not meet current design standards and has many deficiencies. The bridge is seismically deficient, has many irreparable structural deficiencies, and has marginal load capacity.
- The bridge has a rating of 6 out of a possible 100, one of the lowest bridge ratings in the state.
- The bridge foundations are undergoing long-term settlement, which requires periodic re-alignment of the two bridge-span sections. The February 2001 Nisqually Earthquake appears to have exacerbated the settlement problem.
- The final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for completion in Fall of 2006.

Why is this bridge important?

- The South Park Bridge links the manufacturing and industrial centers north of the Duwamish River with the business centers and urban centers on the south side of the river. It also links freight and goods movements from these industrial centers to SR 99, SR 599 and I-5. Failure of this structure would cut the South Park business center from the Duwamish and the north Tukwila industrial centers causing extensive rerouting of trips and increasing traffic congestion on area bridges and arterials.
- The bridge is a segment of a principal arterial with an Annual Average Daily Traffic count in excess of 20,000 vehicles a day. The state Freight and Goods Transportation System classifies 16th Avenue South as T-2 facility carrying 4 to 10 million tons of freight each year.
- This bridge provides access to the activity centers of White Center and West Seattle, residential communities such as South Park, Georgetown, Boulevard Park, serves one of the largest industrial and ship yard complexes in the state, and provides surface transportation for goods going to the King County International Airport and Port of Seattle facilities, the commercial waterway, and rail facilities.
- South Park residents use this bridge as main access to employment and recreation in the city of Seattle to the north and SeaTac and Tukwila to the south.
- A third of the businesses on 14th Avenue South in South Park rely on drive-by traffic to sustain their businesses; a bridge closure would result in significant economic losses in the community.
- The South Park Bridge replacement project will reduce level of congestion and improve safety and increase daily and peak period person and vehicle trip capacity.
- Closure of the bridge will affect other facilities already experiencing heavy congestion during the peak period. Over 40 percent of the trips using South Park Bridge now would be diverted on to 1st Ave South Bridge. Traffic would increase on congested segments of I-5, Pacific Highway South and the West Seattle Bridge.

If closed, percent of South Park Bridge trips diverted to:	
1 st Ave. South Bridge	46
Pacific Highway So. (SR 99)	16
I-5	11
West Seattle Bridge	6
Interurban Avenue	3
Other arterials/local roads	18

- A majority of trips on the South Park Bridge originate from South Seattle area, Burien, Tukwila and Renton (64%), but many come from as far away as Kent, Federal Way and Pierce County.
- Travel time for Emergency Service vehicles and public transit also will experience longer delays due to the bridge closure and will have to find alternative routes to service the South Park community.